

Message Text

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NO FORN

USDOC PLEASE PASS TENNEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : BEXP, BPRO, BTID, BBSR, BBAK

LAUBJECT : FURTHER INFORMATION ON BHAGWANDAS VALABLAS BHATIA

REF: ABU DHABI 2157 (NOTAL, ABU DHABI 2158 (NOTAL, ABU

DHABI 2159 (NOTAL) USDOC 09441 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REQUESTED A WTDR ON A NUMBER OF FIRMS OWNED BY BHAGWANDAS VALABLAS BHATIA. REFTELS ARE WTDR'S WITH STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS THAT US BUSINESSMEN HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BHATIA OR ANY FIRMS CONNECTED WITH HIM. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, WE TRANS

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MIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON BHATIA WHICH IS SOURCE SENSITIVE.

2. A TERRIFIED GREEK BUSINESSMAN WORKING FOR A US FIRM CAME TO SEE VICE CONSUL IN DUBAI BECAUSE A POLICEMAN HAD CONFISCATED HIS PASSPORT, (GREECE HAS NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN THE UAE). THE GREEK HAD COME TO DUBAI AT BHATIA'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS A SHIPMENT OF TIRES. BHATIA HAD ORDERED TWO TYPES OF TIRES, BUT THE SHIPPER, BEING OUT OF ONE TYPE, HAD DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE ORDER OF THE TYPE HE HAD IN STOCK. BHATIA WROTE TO THE US FIRM ASKING THAT THE COMPANY SEND SOMEONE TO DUBAI TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE PROBLEM AND TOLD THEM HE DID NOT WANT THE EXTRA TIRES.

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3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GREEK ALLEGED, BHATIA OBTAINED

A COURT DECREE AGAINST THE COMPANY. NOT KNOWING THIS, THE GREEK ARRIVED, USING A VISA BHATIA HAD THOUGHTFULLY ARRANGED, THUS AVOIDING THE GREEK BUSINESSMAN'S HAVING TO LEAVE HIS PASSPORT AT THE AIRPORT. BHATIA MET HIM AT THE AIRPORT AND ASKED THE GREEK TO SIGN VARIOUS PAPERS COMMITTING THE AMERICAN COMPANY FOR WHICH HE WORKS TO AGREE TO PAY DAMAGES, EXTRA COSTS, ETC. THE GREEK, OF COURSE, HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DO SO. HE HAD COME TO ARRANGE ONWARD SHIPMENT OF THE TIRES AND TO SETTLE ANY PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE SHIPMENT. BHATIA, HAD A POLICEMAN STANDING BESIDE HIM. THE POLICEMAN ASKED FOR AND TOOK THE GREEK'S PASSPORT AND TOLD HIM THAT HIS PASSPORT WOULD BE RETURNED AFTER HE SIGNED THE
UW
PERS.

4. THE GREEK CAME TO THE DUBAI OFFICE, SAW THE VICE CONSUL, AND SENT SEVERAL TELEXES TO HIS FIRM. HE WAS LITERALLY SO TERRIFIED THAT HE SHOOK WITH FRIGHT. THE NEXT DAY, THE GREEK SIGNED THE PAPERS AND LEFT DUBAI. VICE CONSUL HAD ADVISED THAT THE COMPANY SUBMIT ALL DETAILS TO USDOC. NOTHING FURTHER HAS BEEN HEARD CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

5. IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, AN OFFICER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT USG/AGENCY LEARNED THAT BHATIA BRIBED SOME POLICEMEN TO HARASS A EUROPEAN OWNER OF A LOCAL BUSINESS AND SUCCEEDED IN DRIVING THE EUROPEAN OUT OF TOWN. BHATIA THEN TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS.

6. THESE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH WE BELIEVE, SEEM ENOUGH TO WARRANT THE UNFAVORABLE WTDR'S. COMMERCE MAY DRAW ON ABOVE INFORMATION IN BRIEFING U.S. BUSINESSMEN, BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE COPIES OR READ THIS TELEGRAM TO NON-SECURITY-CLEARED INDIVIDUALS.
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